

Rabbit & Hare Camp

Indigenous Culture Camp



Late Fall in Denendeh

We are learning about the different seasons for the Wìlìdeh People. November is in the season of "Late Fall" or T̓tsoak'e. Snow has begun to fall but the land is still not fully frozen. It is a time to prepare for the coming winter. November translates to Ehdzoò niizhe zà, which means setting traps month. During this season rabbits or hares were an important food source for Dene people, especially if large game could not be found. As Dene people travelled on the land they always carried supplies to make snares as a safety, much like matches. We are able to appreciate rabbit for all of its uses.

Class Fun Facts:

Who:
Grade 3

Teacher:
Mrs. Nickerson

Husky P.I.C.K
(Participation in Indigenous Cultural knowledge):
Sam Meadus followed the Dene Laws at camp. He listened to the elders pass on the teachings. Sam was respectful of the Elders and everything around him. He asked great questions and helped our Elders to learn his language while he learned theirs!

Wìlìdeh Yatı Dialect Language Lesson

Thank You-
Mahsi Cho

Late Fall-
T̓tsoak'e.

Bush
Dechmı

Rabbit
Gah

Rabbit Snare
Ghamj

Rabbit Tracks
Gah keè



Prayer & Safety

We began the day by learning about camp safety. We then did a class prayer. We learned about the importance of saying thank you to our Creator for the things we take from the land, the creatures, the elements and the animals that give their life. By offering a gift to the fire, it is believed that the smoke will take our words to Creator.

Rabbit Snares

We started by checking the toss and pull snares that had been set the day before. Traditionally trappers set a line of snares that they could check each day. We learned about how to make our own ground snares and find the rabbit tracks to follow their path. You have to be patient and take your time to set snares.

Lunch

We took time to eat bannock and try rabbit stew. For a lot of us this was a new food. It is important to make sure that you do not waste any part of the animals you take from the land. You can use the rabbit meat for food and the fur for warmth.

Games and Snowshoeing

We played games to show how rabbits use their camouflage to hide from predators and used snowshoes to learn how rabbits move lightly across the snow.

